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For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE ELECTRONIC MAIL BASED
MANAGEMENT AND MANIPULATION OF STORED FILES

1 1. A system for management and manipulation of stored files through
2 electronic mail items comprising:
3 a receiving portal for receiving from a sender an electronic mail
4 item which contains a user identification, a file handle and a command specification;
5 a storage device containing a file corresponding to said file handle;
6 a rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has
7 privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle; and
8 a command executor which executes said command specification
9 on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have the
10 access rights to the file.

1 2. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 further including a file handle recognizer for locating conforming file handle patterns
3 within the body of the electronic mail item.

1 3. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 further including a user identification system which extracts information from the
3 electronic mail item including the from address, destination address, the subject, the

4 reply-to, and the body of the electronic mail item, to enable verification of the sender as a
5 known user of the system.

1 4. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 3
2 further including a command parser which recognizes and assembles a command out of
3 the information extracted from the electronic mail item.

1 5. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to delete the file
3 from said storage device.

1 6. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to retrieve the file
3 as an email attachment.

1 7. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward the file
3 to a third party as an email attachment.

1 8. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to forward to a third
3 party a newly constructed file handle to the file stored on said storage device.

1 9. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to print the file on a
3 fax machine at a specified telephone number.
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1 10. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 further including at least one of an optical character recognition device, automatic speech
3 recognition device, language translation device, and a file format translation device
4 associated with said command executor.

1 11. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to
3 plain text and email it back to the sender.

1 12. The system for management and manipulation of stored files of claim 1
2 wherein the command specification instructs said command executor to convert the file to
3 an audio file and to forward the audio file to a telephone at a specified number.

19. A computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an user identification, a file handle and a command specification;

determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;

retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and

executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to said file.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which computer readable medium is a hard drive.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is an optical drive.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer readable medium is a Random Access Memory.

1 23. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer
2 readable medium is a Read Only Memory.

1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 19 in which the computer
2 readable medium is a tape drive.

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25. A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of:

- receiving from a sender an electronic mail item which contains an user identification, a file handle, and a command specification;
- determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle;
- retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and
- executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to the file.

26. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a personal computer.

27. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a programmable logic controller.

28. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into a single board computer.

29. The processor and memory of claim 25 in which the processor and memory are incorporated into an array of network servers.